

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS  
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. An object-oriented method of collecting information regarding a plurality of target  
5 applications in an application unit, comprising the steps of:

notifying a monitoring device, by a first one of the plurality of target applications,  
through an interface, of an identification of the first one of the plurality of target applications;

requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target  
applications, through the interface, to start monitoring usage of the first one of the plurality of  
10 target applications; and

requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target  
applications, through the interface, to send information regarding monitored usage of the first  
one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination.

15 2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising

requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target  
applications, through the interface, to record a first event of the first one of the plurality of  
target applications.

20 3. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

notifying the monitoring device, by a second one of the plurality of target applications,  
through the interface, of an identification of the second one of the plurality of target  
applications;

requesting the monitoring device, by the second one of the plurality of target  
25 applications, through the interface, to start monitoring usage of the second one of the plurality  
of target applications; and

requesting the monitoring device, by the second one of the plurality of target  
applications, through the interface, to send data corresponding to information regarding  
monitored usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications to a second  
30 predetermined destination.

4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to send information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination further comprises:

5        requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to format the data corresponding to the information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications according to a first predetermined format; and

10        requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to send the data corresponding to the information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to the first predetermined destination through a first predetermined communication protocol.

15        5. The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of determining whether a combination of the first predetermined format and the first predetermined communication protocol is invalid.

20        6. The method according to Claim 5, further comprising:  
when the step of determining determines that the combination is invalid, performing at least one of the steps of

      converting the first predetermined format to a first acceptable predetermined format, and

      converting the first predetermined communication protocol to a first acceptable predetermined communication protocol.

25        7. The method according to Claim 4, wherein  
the first predetermined format includes one of text format, binary format, comma separated format and eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format, and  
the first predetermined communication protocol includes one of Simple Mail Transfer  
30    Protocol (SMTP), File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and local disk.

8. An object-oriented system for collecting information regarding a plurality of target applications in an application unit, the system comprising:

a first device configured to notify, through an interface, a monitoring device of an identification of the first one of the plurality of target applications, wherein the first device is included in the first one of the plurality of target applications;

a second device configured to request, through the interface, the monitoring device to start monitoring usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications, wherein the second device is included in the first one of the plurality of target applications; and

a third device configured to request, through the interface, the monitoring device to send information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination, wherein the third device is included in the first one of the plurality of target applications.

9. The system according to Claim 8, further comprising

a fourth device configured to request, through the interface, the monitoring device to record a first event of the first one of the plurality of target applications, wherein the fourth device is included in the first one of the plurality of target applications.

10. The system according to Claim 8, further comprising:

a fifth device configured to notify, through the interface, the monitoring device of an identification of the second one of the plurality of target applications, wherein the fifth device is included in the second one of the plurality of target applications;

a sixth device configured to request, through the interface, the monitoring device to start monitoring usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications, wherein the sixth device is included in the second one of the plurality of target applications; and

a seventh device configured to request, through the interface, the monitoring device to send data corresponding to information regarding monitored usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications to a second predetermined destination, wherein the seventh device is included in the second one of the plurality of target applications.

11. The system according to Claim 8, wherein the third device is further configured to request, through the interface, the monitoring device to format the data corresponding to the information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications according to a first predetermined format and to request, through the interface, the monitoring device to send the data corresponding to the information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to the first predetermined destination through a first predetermined communication protocol.

12. The system according to Claim 11, further comprising an eighth device configured to determine whether a combination of the first predetermined format and the first predetermined communication protocol is invalid.

13. The system according to Claim 12, further comprising a ninth device configured to perform at least one of the steps of converting the first predetermined format to a first acceptable predetermined format, and converting the first predetermined communication protocol to a first acceptable predetermined communication protocol, when the eighth device determines that the combination is invalid.

14. The system according to Claim 11, wherein the first predetermined format includes one of text format, binary format, comma separated format and eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format, and the first predetermined communication protocol includes one of Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP), File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and local disk.

15. A program product for collecting information regarding a plurality of target applications in an application unit, the program product comprising a computer readable medium embodying program instructions for causing an object-oriented system to perform the steps of:

notifying a monitoring device, by a first one of the plurality of target applications, through an interface, of an identification of the first one of the plurality of target applications;

requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to start monitoring usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications; and

requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to send information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination.

16. The program product according to Claim 15, wherein the program instructions cause the system to further perform the step of

requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to record a first event of the first one of the plurality of target applications.

17. The program product according to Claim 15, wherein the program instructions cause the system to further perform the steps of:

notifying the monitoring device, by a second one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, of an identification of the second one of the plurality of target applications;

requesting the monitoring device, by the second one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to start monitoring usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications; and

requesting the monitoring device, by the second one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to send data corresponding to information regarding monitored usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications to a second predetermined destination.

18. The program product according to Claim 15, wherein the step of requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to send information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination further comprises:

requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to format the data corresponding to the information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications according to a first predetermined format; and

5 requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to send the data corresponding to the information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to the first predetermined destination through a first predetermined communication protocol.

10 19. The program product according to Claim 18, wherein the program instructions cause the system to further perform the step of determining whether a combination of the first predetermined format and the first predetermined communication protocol is invalid.

20. The program product according to Claim 19, wherein:

15 when the step of determining determines that the combination is invalid, the program instructions cause the system to further perform at least one of the steps of  
converting the first predetermined format to a first acceptable predetermined format, and  
converting the first predetermined communication protocol to a first  
20 acceptable predetermined communication protocol.

21. The program product according to Claim 18, wherein  
the first predetermined format includes one of text format, binary format, comma separated format and eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format, and

25 the first predetermined communication protocol includes one of Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP), File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and local disk.